

Ecology response for UNIT F1, MANATON WAY, HEDGE END, SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 2XW

Proposed construction of single storey building to provide a coffee shop within part of existing car park area, together with associated rearrangement of car park access and layout and landscape planting.

David Huckfield

13/11/24

I have reviewed the Ecological Appraisal by Aluco Ecology Ltd (October 2024) and the Detailed Planting Plan and Schedule by Plantology (P04, October 2024).

The proposal would provide more than 10% biodiversity net gain with planting of 9 additional trees and enhancing the diversity of existing planting areas. Swift bricks/nest boxes (x2) are proposed to be added to the new building.

Swift nest boxes are best positioned under the eaves or on walls facing north, northeast or north-west out of direct sunlight, five metres above the ground, with clear adjacent airspace so swifts can access them in a high-speed direct flight.

(<https://www.swiftconservation.org/Nestboxes%26Attraction.htm>).

The ecological appraisal report recognises that these boxes are not likely to be used by swifts in this location and that they would not be able to be located at a height of 5 m due to the size of the building, but they are a good universal bird box and are able to be used by other birds such as house sparrows when swifts are not in residence. Built in nest boxes are preferred as they do not need maintenance and cannot fall off.

Any vegetation to be removed to facilitate the development must be removed outside of bird nesting season (which is usually between the beginning of March and the end of August) or if this is not possible then only after being checked for nesting birds by a suitably qualified ecologist up to 24 hours before the start of works. If any active nests are found, work must stop, and a 5 m buffer must be erected around the nest to protect it from disturbance until after the birds have fledged and left the nest.

Any new exterior lighting must avoid shining on vegetation or existing dark corridors and comply with best practice recommendations available at [Guidance Note 8 Bats and Artificial Lighting | Institution of Lighting Professionals \(theilp.org.uk\)](https://www.theilp.org.uk/Guidance%20Note%208%20Bats%20and%20Artificial%20Lighting).

The existing surface water drainage strategy is appropriate. The use of water butts to collect rainwater to water the planted areas is encouraged.

A detailed landscape management plan can be conditioned.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

